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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|

10/695,539

10/28/2003

Easwaran Nambudiri

F-678

6441

7590 07/09/2008
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EXAMINER

BHARADWAJ, KALPANA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2129

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/09/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/695,539 | Applicant(s) NAMBUDIRI, EASWARAN | |
| | Examiner KALPANA BHARADWAJ | Art Unit 2129 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 April 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8-20, 22-23 and 25-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-20, 22, 23 and 25-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to an AMENDMENT entered April 22, 2008 for the patent application 10/695,539 filed on Oct 28, 2003.
2. All prior office actions are fully incorporated into this Office Action by reference.

Status of Claims

3. Claims 8-20, 22-23 and 25-27 are pending. Claims 1-7, 21 and 24 are cancelled. Claims 26 and 27 are new.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 8-20, 22-23 and 24-27 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Auslander (USPN

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2003/0005303, referred to as **Auslander**), and further in view of Jauert (USPN 6,776,544 referred to as **Jauert**).

Claim 8, 19, 23:

Auslander teaches a method for printing an indicium comprising:

selecting a print resolution characteristic for at least a portion of the indicium

(**Auslander**, ¶ 0010: printed at high resolution);

printing the indicium on a substrate (**Auslander**, ¶ 0012: printed on various substrates), the at least a portion of the indicium being printed with the selected print resolution, the indicium including at least one symbol (**Auslander**, ¶ 0032: one or more alphanumerical symbols), the at least one symbol including resolution data that is indicative of the selected print resolution characteristic (**Auslander**, ¶ 0010: printed at high resolution).

Auslander does not teach:

transforming a source image of the at least a portion of the indicium based on the selected print resolution characteristic;

However, Jauert teaches transforming a source image of the at least a portion of the indicium based on the selected print resolution characteristic (**Jauert**, C21-22 especially C21L24-45: transition region in the print image ... printing carried out with high resolution but low resolution is simulated);

For the additional limitation in claim 19, Jauert teaches selecting a print resolution based on a predetermined data (**Jauert**, C04-05 especially C04L60-67: print image with a predetermined number of print image columns).

Auslander and Jauert are from the same field of endeavor, image printing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified Auslander's system with transforming the source image based on print resolution characteristic and the resolution based on predetermined data, for the benefit of a high throughput of postal items.

EN: Claims 8, 19 and 23 have the same subject matter, although there is a subtle variation in the verbiage. They have been grouped together for brevity. Same rejections apply

Claim 10:

Auslander modified by Jauert teaches the apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the resolution data is in encrypted form (**Auslander**, ¶ 0060: an encryption information).

Claim 11:

Auslander modified by Jauert teaches the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the at least one symbol is part of a barcode (**Auslander**, ¶ 0053: a barcode 38).

Claim 13:

Auslander modified by Jauert teaches the method according to claim 8, wherein the substrate is an envelope (**Auslander**, ¶ 0008: indicium on an envelope).

Claim 17:

Auslander modified by Jauert teaches the method according to claim 13, wherein the indicium is a postage indicium (**Auslander**, ¶ 0060: printing a postage indicium).

Claim 9, 26:

Auslander does not explicitly teach the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first resolution characteristic includes a horizontal resolution factor and a vertical resolution factor.

However, Jauert teaches the first resolution characteristic including a horizontal resolution factor and a vertical resolution factor (**Jauert**, C07-08 especially C08L15-35: vertical and horizontal resolution).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified Auslander's invention with Jauert's horizontal and vertical resolution factors for the benefit of being able to add "touch-up" pixels to the image.

Claim 12:

Auslander does not teach the method according to claim 8, wherein:
performing a random process; the print resolution characteristic is randomly performed based at least in part on a result of the random process.

However, Jauert teaches performing a random process; wherein the print resolution characteristic is performed based at least in part on a result of the random

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process (**Jauert**, Fig 17: Printer controller, Parameter changer; **EN**: The parameter changer could be a random number generator). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified Auslander's invention with Jauert's printer controller with parameter changer, for the benefit of a resolution that would be that would be ensure security.

Claim 14:

Auslander teaches a method for verifying authenticity of an indicium comprising:

extracting at least one symbol included in the indicium, the at least one symbol specifying an actual print resolution that indicates a resolution that should have been used to print the at least a portion of the indicium (**Auslander**, ¶ 0032: one or more alphanumerical symbols);

Auslander does not teach:

examining the indicium to determine a print resolution characteristic used to print at least a portion of the indicium; and

comparing the determined print resolution characteristic with the second print resolution characteristic to determine whether the determining first print resolution characteristic matches the actual print resolution characteristic;

wherein if the determined print resolution characteristic matches the actual print resolution characteristic, the indicium is verified as authentic.

However, Jauert teaches:

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examining the indicium to determine a print resolution characteristic used to print at least a portion of the indicium (**Jauert**, C04-05 especially C04L29-35: different print image resolution);
and

comparing the first print resolution characteristic with the second print resolution characteristic to determine whether the first print resolution characteristic matches the second print resolution characteristic; wherein if the determined print resolution characteristic matches the actual print resolution characteristic, the indicium is verified as authentic (**Jauert**, C05-06 especially C05L27-40: print data controller; required print resolution).

Auslander and Jauert are from the same field of endeavor, postal printing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified Auslander's invention with Jauert's print data controller, for the benefit of finding the exact resolution as required by the print image.

Claim 15:

Auslander modified by Jauert teaches the method according to claim 14, wherein extracting at least one symbol includes reading a barcode that is part of the indicia (**Auslander**, ¶ 0053: a barcode 38).

Claim 16:

Auslander modified by Jauert the method according to claim 15, wherein the barcode is a two-dimensional barcode (**Auslander**, ¶ 0053: a barcode 38; **EN**: A barcode on a postage is two-dimensional).

Claim 18:

Auslander modified by Jauert teaches the method according to claim 14, wherein the at least one symbol is encrypted, the method further comprising:

: decrypting the at least one symbol (**Auslander**, ¶ 0057: verifying a cryptographic digital signature; **EN**: 'verifying' involves decrypting).

Claim 20:

Auslander modified by Jauert teaches the method according to claim 19, wherein the predetermined data includes at least one of a calendar date, a current day of the week, a state or province in which the postage meter is located, a postal zone in which the postage meter is located, a current value of a register of the postage meter, and a random process (**Auslander**, ¶ 0060: includes a postage meter 100).

Claim 22:

Auslander modified by Jauert teaches the method according to claim 19, wherein the data is in the form of a barcode that is part of the postage indicia (**Auslander**, ¶ 0053: a barcode 38).

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Claim 25:

Auslander modified by Jauert teaches the postage meter according to claim 23, wherein the data is in the form of a barcode that is part of the postage indicium (**Auslander**, ¶ 0053: a barcode 38).

Claim 27:

Auslander modified by Jauert the postage meter according to claim 23, wherein the print resolution characteristic is selected based on at least one of: (a) a calendar date, (b) a current day of the week, (c) a state or province in which the postage meter is located, (d) a postal zone in which the postage meter is located, (**Auslander**, ¶ 0060: includes a postage meter 100) (e) a current value of a register of the postage meter, and (f) a random process.

Response to Argument

6. Applicant's arguments are moot considering the new grounds of rejection. Specifically, print resolution and transforming a source image, which is the focus of the applicant's invention, is well anticipated by the newly introduced references.

Examination Considerations

7. Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers or paragraph numbers in the references applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the Applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in their entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner. The entire reference is considered to provide disclosure relating to the claimed invention.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Correspondence Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KALPANA BHARADWAJ whose telephone number is (571)270-1641. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30am 5:00 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Vincent can be reached on (571) 272-3080. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Bharadwaj Kalpana/
Examiner, Art Unit 2129

/David R Vincent/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2129